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Twenty-eighth session
27 February-3 March 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

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13. Environment statistics.
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15. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

16. Programme questions and related matters.

17. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

18. Report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure and past practice, the Statistical Commission will elect, at its first meeting, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission to the beginning of the twenty-ninth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were considered by the Commission at its special session (New York, 11-15 April 1994) 1/ and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1994/295. The Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, at its seventeenth session (New York, 6-9 September 1994), reviewed the provisional agenda and documentation and made a number of decisions, which are reflected in the present provisional agenda and documentation (see E/CN.3/1995/2, paras. 51-71).

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/1995/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/1995/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/1995/L.2)

3. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of international statistical work in the United Nations system

In line with the decision of the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1995/2, para. 67), which considered the matter at the request of the Commission at its special session, 2/ a brief commemoration will be observed: the Chairman of the twenty-eighth session will give an address on the achievements of the international statistical system, including countries. The Secretariat will inform the Commission of progress made on the other commemorative activities endorsed by the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1995/2, paras. 66-68).

4. National accounts

The Commission will have before it a report by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) containing its proposals on the role of the international agencies in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA); a definition of what "SNA implementation" actually means; how to monitor that implementation; and what immediate activities ISWGNA members plan to carry out in order to support the implementation process.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: ISWGNA) (E/CN.3/1995/3)

5. Industrial and construction statistics

The Commission will have before it a report by the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics on progress in the follow-up to the survey on the implementation and use of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC, Rev.3), as well as Task Force plans to expand the programme to cover statistics on the production of all goods except agricultural goods.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (Convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)) (E/CN.3/1995/4)

6. International trade statistics

The Commission will have before it a report by the Task Force on International Trade Statistics. In response to the request of the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1995/2, para. 11), the report will include an analysis of country practices in compiling international trade statistics and reporting them to the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), as well as an outline of the plans of the international organizations concerned for revising existing United Nations concepts and definitions for international trade statistics. 3/ The Commission will be requested to endorse those plans; assess the implications of current national compilation practices for the proposed revision; and endorse the Working Group proposal that countries - developed countries in the first instance - should analyse their practices and outline a plan of action for improving compliance with the United Nations recommendations, and should also indicate the rationale for any non-compliance.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (Convener: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)) (E/CN.3/1995/5)

7. Finance statistics

The Commission will have before it a report by the Task Force on Finance Statistics on the harmonization with the 1993 SNA of the methodologies adopted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for monetary and financial statistics and government finance statistics; the report will also cover the coordination of the collection of financial statistics by international organizations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (Convener: IMF) (E/CN.3/1995/6)

8. Price statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Task Force on Price Statistics including the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The report will cover work on the harmonization of consumer price indices (CPI) within the European Union and will describe the actions taken by the Task Force and its future plans to improve the coordination of world-wide CPI work, especially in the context of the intercountry comparisons of rates of inflation. The report will also include a proposal for an objective appraisal and evaluation of ICP.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (Convener: Statistical Office of European Communities (Eurostat)) (E/CN.3/1995/7)

9. Service statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Task Force on Service Statistics, supplemented by an oral report on the preliminary results of a questionnaire related to international trade in services sent to countries; the report will also cover ongoing work on an inventory of activities and requirements of international agencies with respect to trade in services.

The Secretary-General will submit an update on the latest developments in international organizations to support conceptual and practical work on the domestic services sector in developing countries, where informal and household sector activities play an increasing role in economic development and special statistical problems are encountered in their measurement.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Service Statistics (Convener: OECD) (E/CN.3/1995/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on service statistics (E/CN.3/1995/14)

10. International economic classifications

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on proposals for restructuring the services section of the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) 4/ and on progress in its overall work to date.

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Expert Group on Classifications, scheduled to be held in New York in December 1994. The Expert Group will address the strategic direction of future classification work and the priorities assigned to different classifications; the activities of international agencies, individual countries and groups of countries dealing with classifications; and its own possible role in guiding and coordinating those activities.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/1995/15)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Classifications (E/CN.3/1995/16)

11. Demographic and social statistics

The Secretary-General will submit a report on demographic, social and migration statistics, containing a review of the work under way in the current biennium on civil registration and vital statistics; international migration statistics; the Demographic Yearbook and its related database; family and household statistics; human settlement and city statistics; crime statistics; disability statistics; and gender statistics. Future activities of the above statistics programmes will be proposed. A separate report on the 1990 and 2000 world population and housing census programmes will also be submitted, which will describe the achievements made during the 1990 Census Decade (1985-1994); the new issues that have emerged; and the proposed activities for the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme to be implemented during the 2000 Census Decade (1995-2004).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics (E/CN.3/1995/17)

Report of the Secretary-General on the 1990 and 2000 world population and housing census programmes (E/CN.3/1995/18)

12. Measuring and monitoring economic and social development

The Commission will have before it a report by the Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty, containing interim results of the questionnaire on their work in poverty measurement that was circulated to international organizations by the convener of the Task Force; an update on progress in other areas of the

work of the Task Force; and, as requested by the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1995/2, para. 28 (c)), a review of the reservations expressed by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Statistical Commission's Working Group concerning any further work aimed at considering international standards.

The Secretary-General will submit a report on the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the development of poverty profiles. Poverty is a major concern in the ECLAC region and studies have been carried out on the existing social structure in order to evaluate the magnitude and characteristics of the problem and design policy programmes to overcome it. The report will describe those studies and the measurement and analysis methods that they used.

The Commission will also have before it a report by the Central Statistical Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the implications for statistics of the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty (Convener: World Bank) (E/CN.3/1995/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the development of poverty profiles (E/CN.3/1995/19)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Central Statistical Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the implications for statistics of the World Summit for Social Development (E/CN.3/1995/20)

13. Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it a report by the Task Force on Environment Statistics on the proposed action-oriented work programme it has developed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics (Convener: UNSTAT) (E/CN.3/1995/8)

14. Technical cooperation in statistics

The Secretary-General will submit a report on technical cooperation activities in statistics, including a summary of activities and expenditures in technical cooperation programmes in statistics during 1991-1994 on the part of the United Nations system and several multilateral organizations. The Secretary-General will also submit a report on funding technical cooperation in statistics prepared jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNSTAT. The report will review

the effects of current funding arrangements at the global, regional and country levels. The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by Statistics Canada on statistical education and training.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics (E/CN.3/1995/21)

Report of the Secretary-General prepared jointly by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat on funding technical cooperation in statistics (E/CN.3/1995/22)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada on statistical education and training (E/CN.3/1995/23)

15. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its seventeenth session (New York, 6-9 September 1994). The report includes the outcome of the Working Group's review of (a) the implementation of the 1993 SNA; (b) the work of the task forces that had been established by the Statistical Commission in eight subject-matter areas; (c) the methods of reporting of those task forces; (d) ways of strengthening the role of the regional commissions in statistics; (e) other matters of coordination in international statistical work and the follow-up to decisions of the Statistical Commission; (f) action to improve the development of statistics of the domestic service sector in developing countries; (g) problems in the area of technical cooperation in statistics; (h) decisions on the agenda and documentation for the current session of the Statistical Commission; and (i) recommendations on the dates, venue and agenda for the eighteenth session of the Working Group.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-eighth session (Rome, 8-10 June 1994). The report contains the outcome of the Subcommittee's review of many aspects of the coordination of international statistical activities, including several matters that are relevant to the agenda of the Statistical Commission, such as (a) technical cooperation; (b) the work of inter-agency task forces; (c) coordination at the regional level; (d) improvement of coordination tools; (e) monitoring the implementation of international classifications in countries; (f) international migration statistics; (g) the fiftieth anniversary of statistical work in the United Nations system; and (h) improvement in the Subcommittee's method of work.

The Secretary-General will submit a report on recent developments in the coordination of statistical data-collection activities and improvements in the inventory of statistical data-collection activities (for most recent issue, see E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.6 and Add.1 of 7 July 1993); the inventory is a major tool for improving the coordination of statistical data collection by international organizations and reducing the response burden on countries.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its seventeenth session (E/CN.3/1995/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-eighth session (E/CN.3/1995/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries (E/CN.3/1995/13)

16. Programme questions and related matters

The Secretary-General will submit a report on significant developments that have occurred since the various substantive reports for the Commission were completed as well as any important developments in areas not covered in the agenda of the current session. The Secretary-General will also submit a report containing an overall review of the principal statistical activities of international organizations in 1992, 1993 and part of 1994. The report will focus on major achievements in the activities of the organizations. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Commission will also have before it the relevant parts of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/49/135 and Add.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-fourth session (A/49/16).

The Secretary-General will submit a report on the plans of international organizations in the field of statistics. The report will cover new additions to and major changes in existing plans for the various relevant plan periods of the international organizations. In addition, following the request of the Independent Review Group, supported by the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1993/21, paras. 45-47), the Commission will have before it a report by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on the plans of the international organizations in the area of methodological development. The report was intended by the Review Group to place a special focus on methodological development and to represent a step towards broader integrated reports of the statistical activities of the organizations. The Secretary-General will also submit a note on planned future work of the UNSTAT. The note will serve, inter alia, as a covering note for the conference room papers containing the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, as well as proposed priorities and related information (E/CN.3/1995/CRP.1); and initial proposals for the medium-term plan in statistics beyond 1997 (E/CN.3/1995/CRP.2).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1995/24)

Report of the Secretary-General on the overall review of the statistical work of international organizations in statistics (E/CN.3/1995/25)

Report of the Secretary-General on plans of international organizations in statistics (E/CN.3/1995/26)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on plans in methodological development (E/CN.3/1995/12)

Draft programme of work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1996-1997, the medium-term plan, and information on programme performance (E/CN.3/1995/27)

Proposed programme of work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1996-1997 and related information (E/CN.3/1995/CRP.1)

Plans for statistical work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1995/CRP.2)

17. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/1995/L.3)

18. Report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session

The Commission will adopt the report on its twenty-eighth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9 (E/1994/29), chaps. I and VIII.

2/ Ibid., para. 71 (c).

3/ International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 52, Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.14).

4/ Provisional Central Product Classification, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 77 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XVII.7).